

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 144 without my signature.

While I understand the Franklin-McKinley School District's desire to demonstrate the quality of its math instructional programs and motivate its students, this bill is not the correct way to do so. Using the California High School Exit Exam for this purpose in eighth grade would yield inaccurate measurements of these students' achievement when they take it again in tenth grade, thereby compromising its validity. There are other assessments, including the California Standards Tests that can appropriately be used to achieve the district's goals. Finally, there is no compelling state interest in providing the high school exit exam to one district just so that it can motivate its students.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger